

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07410 211324Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 211315Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9087

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7410

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS OF LEBANON

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH RABIN TODAY I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS SURE I WOULD BE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ISRAEL FLIGHTS OVER BEIRUT WHICH HAD BEEN PUBLICIZED IN THE PRESS WITHIN THE LAST DAY OR SO. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHENEVER THERE IS TENSION ALONG THE BORDER THE IDF ROUTES ITS RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER LEBANON AND PARTICULARLY ALONG THE LEBANESE-SYRIAN BORDER. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE IDF IS NOT PERMITTED TO FLY OVER SYRIA BUT ITS AIR-CRAFT IS EQUIPPED WITH "SIDE LOOKING" CAMERAS AND FLIGHTS ALONG THE LEBANESE-SYRIAN BORDER PROVIDE COMPLETE INTELLIGENCE ON SYRIAN MILITARY MOVEMENT IN AREAS OF CRITICAL CONCERN TO ISRAEL. OCCASIONALLY AIRCRAFT FLYING AT VERY HIGH ALTITUDES TURN TOWARD THE MEDITERRANEAN AFTER SURVEYING THE SYRIAN-LEBANESE BORDER AND OVERFLY BEIRUT. THIS HAS BEEN A REGULAR PRACTICE OF THE IDF SINCE THE YOM KIPPUR WAR AND IS DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO ENSURE THAT THE ISRAELIS WON'T AGAIN BE CAUGHT SHORT AS THEY WERE IN OCTOBER 1973.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO EMBASSY BEIRUT.
TOON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS
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Draft Date: 21 NOV 1975
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DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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